

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 9, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate

The Honorable Robert Byrd  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Byrd and Ranking Member Cochran:

We write to respectfully request a total of \$100 million in emergency appropriations for security for the 2008 Republican and Democratic conventions in Minnesota and Colorado.

The party conventions are events of enormous symbolism, and natural targets for those who wish to do our nation harm. These events will attract tens of thousands of visitors, delegates and members of the media, as well as hundreds of national and international dignitaries, members of Congress, cabinet members, and in the case of Minnesota, the President. The planning and staffing required to secure the many potential terrorist targets for each convention will certainly challenge the resources of local law enforcement. Accordingly, on March 5, Secretary Chertoff designated the Minnesota convention as a National Special Security Event (NSSE), and designation for the Denver convention should follow soon.

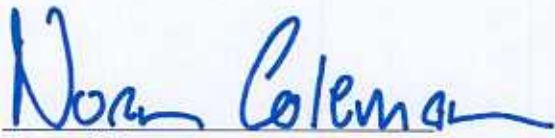
Recognizing the unique security challenges inherent in a post-9/11 world, Congress saw fit to make appropriations of \$50 million each for the purpose of convention security for the 2004 New York and Boston conventions. These funds were provided in the form of Byrne grants and contained in P.L. 108-99 and P.L. 108-287.

Because of the need to effectively plan for these conventions, we believe similar funding should be provided to the Cities of St. Paul and Denver. Due to the national security nature of these events, the absolute inflexibility of the planning schedule needed and the always precarious timing of appropriations bills, we would request that such funding be included in the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill.

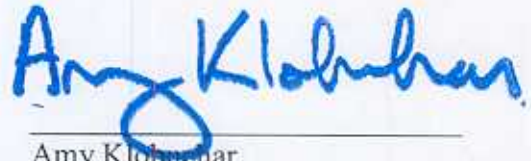
We look forward to the opportunity to work with you and your staff to ensure these events, which are symbolic of our democratic system, receive adequate security funding.

Thank you for your consideration.

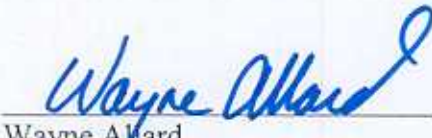
Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Norm Coleman in blue ink.

Norm Coleman  
United States Senate

Handwritten signature of Amy Klobuchar in blue ink.

Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senate

Handwritten signature of Wayne Allard in blue ink.

Wayne Allard  
United States Senate

Handwritten signature of Ken Salazar in blue ink.

Ken Salazar  
United States Senate